

REMARKS

By this Amendment claims 1-2 and 4-10 have been amended to better define the invention. Claim 3 is now shown in its entirety.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 5-8 and 10 (apparently claims 2-4 and 9 as well) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen (newly cited) in view of Oldakowski.

This rejection is without merit.

Jensen discloses a linear actuator which includes a driving nut axially displaceable on a screw spindle (connected to a drive rod), a reversible electric motor for driving the screw spindle for rotating the spindle in one direction or the other, and a coil spring located around one end of the spindle or a cylindrical element of the power transmission coupling so as to allow free rotation of the spindle in one rotation direction (projection movement) but applies a braking force in the opposite rotation direction.

In this construction, the coil spring rests on a cylindrical portion of the worm wheel; accordingly the coil spring is carried along with rotation of the worm wheel. That is also the fact with Oldakowski wherein the coil springs 30,31 are resting on the shaft end 12 of the spindle 17. Accordingly, the coil spring participates in the rotation of the spindle.

In the present invention the coil spring 11 is rotated about the static, fixed, immovable cylindrical portion 9,10. This has the advantage that the cylindrical portion 9 could be part of the metal front bracket 8 on

the motor. Accordingly, the coil spring is no longer resting on a cylindrical portion 14 of the plastic worm wheel 13. The worm wheel 13 is only rotating the coil spring 16 around the cylindrical portions 9,10.

Oldakowski do not teach that one could rotate the coil spring around a cylindrical body. Oldakowski teaches us as did Jensen that the spring should rest on a rotating element such as the shaft end of the spindle or a cylindrical portion of a worm wheel.

In Oldakowski the coil springs 30,31 locks the gear wheel 22 to the shaft end of the spindle 17 and participates in the rotation. Oldakowski does not teach that the coil springs 30,31 could rotate about the shaft end of the spindle. If it could, the construction would not work as the gear wheel 22 then could not drive the spindle.

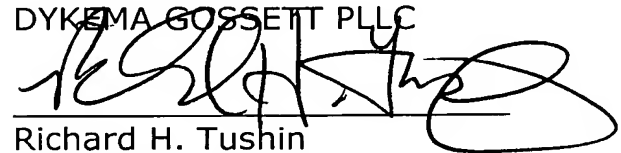
What Oldakowski is doing is that he releases the coil springs 30,31 from their engagement with the stationary braking hubs 35,42. The other end of the spring is slightly smaller than the outer diameter of the shaft end of the spindle resulting in an interference fit and reliable connection between the spring and the shaft end.

The examiner's prior art rejection should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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